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Celebrity Buzz

Simpson hits back at Mayer pg 22

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Sports pg 13

Masters will host Tiger's return

Duffy mum on King's criticism

JOURNALISM Senator Mike Duffy isn't commenting on his criticisms of the University of King's College and other journalism programs across the country.

Metro Halifax has tried to contact the former CTV News journalist in regards to a story this paper ran yesterday on his weekend speech in Amherst slamming King's and other journalism schools. Duffy criticized them for teaching critical thinking and Noam Chomsky's book Manufacturing Consent.

Mike Duffy

"Unfortunately, he is declining all media requests at this time," Duffy's assistant, Melanie Mercer, said in an email yesterday.

METRO HALIFAX

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Golf Courses opening early

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Golf instructor Jeff Sutherland enjoys the warm weather as he hits some golf balls at the Lake Loon Golf Centre driving range yesterday. Many driving ranges are already open, and one golf course in HRM announced they are opening on the weekend thanks to the recent run of spring-like temperatures. Story, page 4

Cops investigate Dartmouth gunfire

PHILIP CROUCHER
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CRIME Shots rang out in a north end Dartmouth neighbourhood last night.

Halifax Regional Police were called to Nova Court in Dartmouth near Wyse Road and Boland Drive just before 8:30 p.m. after residents reported hearing gunshots in the area.

Police spokesman Sgt. Don Moser said last night they don't know of any injuries in relation to the gunfire. He said officers were on scene throughout the evening talking to witnesses in the area, which is home to apartments and townhouses behind the Dartmouth Shopping Centre.

"We have our forensic investigative unit on scene," he said.

"We know it's multiple shots fired from a firearm, but we don't have an exact number."

Moser said the investigation team had detained a female in relation to the shooting, but he knew of no arrests being made.

A police K-9 unit was brought in to help look for bullet fragments near the scene of the shooting.

Shooting death to be probed

RCMP watchdog to examine incident

The watchdog agency for the RCMP says rising public concern has prompted it to take the rare step of launching its own probe into the fatal shooting of a Nova Scotia man in his home by a police officer.

Ian McPhail, the acting chairman of the RCMP complaints commission, announced yesterday he has decided to proceed with an inquiry into the conduct of the RCMP in the Dec. 2, 2008, shooting death of John Simon.

McPhail said the probe — known as a "public interest investigation" under the RCMP Act — is of his own initiative rather than as a result of outside complaints.

"There are sufficient concerns related to this case which merit a public interest investigation," McPhail said in an email.

"To that end, one of our own investigators is being dispatched to look into all aspects of the case."

A Halifax Regional Police investigation cleared RCMP Const. Jeremy Frenette of any criminal wrongdoing, but there has been no disciplinary review of his actions.

The Mounties said they didn't launch a disciplinary review within one year — the time limit imposed by the federal law that governs the police force — because they were waiting for the HRP investigation to finish.

"While internal discipline is within the discretion of the RCMP, the apparent lack of internal discipline in this case has raised much public concern," the commission said in a statement.

The RCMP declined comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigation

- The investigation will examine all aspects of Simon's shooting death, including the RCMP's response on that day. It will also probe the conduct of the RCMP members involved in the HRP investigation to determine whether it was carried out impartially and in a timely manner.

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Local

Resignation baffles Grit president

Nova Scotia Liberal Party president Derek Wells said the sudden resignation of Glace Bay MLA Dave Wilson, left, was a total surprise to him. "He has never spoken to me about any of these issues," Wells said. "There is still no explanation … as far as I know." Wilson announced last Friday he had resigned and retained a lawyer after being contacted by the auditor general's office, which is doing a forensic audit into MLA expenses. METRO HALIFAX

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Warrant issued for sex-assault suspect

CRIME Police are hoping the public can help them find a man accused of sexually assaulting a minor two months ago.

Samuel Otis Downey, 41, is charged with sexual assault, forcible confinement and sexual interference with a minor female after an alleged incident in early January. So far, police say Downey has been able to evade custody.

Samuel Otis Downey

The Halifax RCMP released a photo of Downey yesterday and announced a nationwide warrant for the man.

Downey is known to frequent the Halifax area as well as Ontario. Anyone with information on Downey is asked to call RCMP, Halifax Regional Police, or Crime Stoppers.

METRO HALIFAX

A man walks through the Public Gardens in this file photo from last year. Despite the spring-like weather, the Public Gardens is still several weeks away from opening. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Public Gardens to stay closed despite warmth

Still much work needed on grounds: Official

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax

The gates to Halifax Public Gardens will remain locked for the time being, despite the unseasonably warm weather.

Brian Phelan, HRM's superintendent of parks and open spaces, said while the weather conditions are favourable, there is still much work to be done before the public can enjoy the gardens.

"We're still nowhere near opening time, even though you look out the window today and it's quite nice," Phelan said. "There's a drainage issue in the gardens, and the pathways are like a sponge, and the turf is very, very fragile and sensitive to compaction. We can't even consider getting in there for a while yet."

> **"There's a drainage issue in the gardens, and the pathways are like a sponge ... We can't even consider getting in there for a while yet."**
> Brian Phelan, HRM superintendent of parks and open spaces

Phelan said there is some limited work being done now, such as pruning and cleaning up from the winter. Due to the drainage situation, however, full-scale efforts will have to wait.

"We do have a few parks maintenance staff in there cleaning up and doing some prep work," he said. "But it's still a little early to get in there in full-force of spring prep work."

He also noted the majority of parks staff are still tied up in winter works, which handles snow removal and maintenance.

Phelan added it's possible for a limited opening — cordoning off those sections of the gardens that still need work, while opening up the rest to the public.

"(That would) be part of our early opening strategy," he said.

The gardens may still open ahead of schedule, however.

"Typically we open in the second week of May, but now we're thinking on opening maybe the very last of April," Phelan said.

NDP won't appeal fine for illegal donations

PAUL MCLEOD
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MONEY The NDP has decided not to appeal a $10,000 fine for keeping illegal campaign donations.

Party president Peggy Mahon said a cheque was mailed off yesterday to the office of chief electoral officer Christine McCulloch.

The donations were made during last year's election campaign when the Mainland Building and Construction Trades Council skirted the $5,000 maximum donation limit by funnelling $45,000 through its nine member unions to the NDP.

The NDP said it returned the money and McCulloch ruled it had no way of knowing it was inappropriate. But late last month, McCulloch levelled the $10,000 fine when it turned out the money was never returned.

At the time, Mahon said the party was considering an appeal. She wouldn't say yesterday why that idea was dropped.

"I'm actually not going to answer that question because we had an in-camera executive meeting to talk about that," Mahon said.

"We had a very thoughtful and thorough discussion. And after that discussion the executive decided not to appeal."

Provincial secretary Ed Wark accepted responsibility for not returning the money, saying he was waiting for the outcome of McCulloch's investigation. He resigned his position with the party. Mahon said yesterday Wark was the only one who knew the money had not been returned.

The $10,000 will come out of the party's general operating fund, which is made up of private donations and public funding.

"It's definitely going to put some strain on (our finances)," said Mahon. "We hadn't anticipated, of course, this fine when we put together our budget for this year."

Burning ban initiated after string of grass, brush fires

PHILIP CROUCHER
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BLAZES A recent rash of grass and brush fires over the last three weeks has resulted in a burning ban in HRM.

As of late yesterday afternoon, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services had responded to 67 of these types of fires since March 1.

The ban announced yesterday includes all open air fires, but outdoor wood-burning appliances completely enclosed and with a spark-arrester screen are exempt.

"We are averaging, what, eight or nine a day," said divisional Chief Mike LeRue.

"It's certainly strapping our resources. It's been so dry."

There are different reasons why these fires ignite, but LeRue said it begins with the fact the ground surface is "too dry," a direct result of drier-than-normal temperatures and an absence of snow.

LeRue said two small structures have been damaged in the fires, and they've come close to more.

Firefighters were busy battling several more of these fires yesterday, including one on the St. Margarets Bay Road near Queensland.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY
Blogs SpinDoctor questions potential grey areas of Stephen Harper's YouTube town hall and Hollywood Rants on the perfect match between the Muppets and their newest human co-star

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Accident lands driver summary offence
A 49-year-old man was given a summary offence ticket for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk after an accident on Cogswell and North Park streets in Halifax Monday night. A 37-year-old man was struck in the crosswalk and taken to hospital with minor injuries. METRO HALIFAX

Mounties hit HRM streets

RCMP hope to reduce crime by building rapport with community

ALEX BOUTILIER
For Metro Halifax

More RCMP officers will be walking the streets of HRM in hopes of reducing crime and building a rapport with the community.

While not releasing specific numbers, the increased foot patrols will take place seven days a week and focus on pathways, businesses, recreation areas and streets. Police spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said they hope by increasing the number of officers on the street, it will make them more accessible to the public.

"It fosters a greater relationship and trust between the residents and us," Taplin said. "It makes us more approachable ... Residents can actually come up and talk to the officers as they're on patrol."

According to Taplin, foot patrols are a more proactive than reactive policing strategy.

"If there's any problems or anything, we can come up with potential solutions a lot quicker by actually getting more interface with the public," he said.

Taplin said pathways in parks and more secluded areas will get special emphasis. He said there have been incidents of assaults and thefts in these areas.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Const. Kelly Lower and Const. Sam Dupont walk around a Cole Harbour strip mall yesterday. The RCMP in the Halifax District are increasing the number of foot patrols this year with an emphasis on pathways and higher than normal crime areas.

"But now with the officers that are actually walking in around the pathways, you know, people who are out there who might be thinking that they're going to commit a crime will be seeing officers more frequently," he said.

In addition to year-long beat officers, the Halifax Regional Police will also be beefing up its park patrol for the warmer months. Spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said foot patrol is invaluable for connecting police and the people they serve.

"If you're out on foot or on a bike, you're much more approachable to the public," he said. "I've been on the bike, I've been on foot, and I've been in the car, and I can tell you that when you're out on foot, or out on the bike, people will come and talk to you."

Teens charged in rock-throwing incidents

STEWIACKE Two Stewiacke boys are facing criminal charges after allegedly throwing rocks through the windows of moving vehicles..

The youth were among five 14-year-old boys arrested last week in connection with a series of incidents, including property damage that occurred in the South Colchester town between Feb. 11 and March 3. The damage included smashing store windows and a windshield out of vehicle, damaging the canteen at the Stewiacke ball fields and damage to property at the Stewiacke treatment plant.

Two boys are each facing six mischief charges, including two counts each of mischief endangering a life while the remaining three are facing between two and five counts of mischief and will be proceeding through the restorative justice system.

"It's one thing for youths ... to smash a window out of a stationary service delivery truck, but it's another thing to throw a rock, the size of a man's fist, at a vehicle travelling at least 110 km/h on the 102 highway," Sgt. Al Affleck said.

"That could kill somebody. That could kill the driver. It could kill the person throwing the rock and could kill anybody else if the driver lost control."

Two youth are alleged to have thrown rocks at vehicles on Highway 102 near Exit 11 in Stewiacke.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Majority happy with HRM council: Poll

PAUL MCLEOD
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POLITICS A small majority of people are happy with the direction of municipal government, according to a new poll by Corporate Research Associates..

CRA found that 53 per cent of people were "mostly" satisfied with council, while another two per cent were "completely" satisfied. On the opposite side, 38 per cent of people were either mostly or completely dissatisfied.

Dissatisfaction was highest in rural parts of the municipality with 43 per cent.

The results are considered accurate within 4.9 percentage points 19 times out of 20. The poll also suggests people of HRM are tired of being known as people of HRM. As with past CRA polls, the survey found a majority of people supported splitting the municipality into urban and rural entities. Support for separation was highest in Halifax and rural areas, where it sits at about 60 per cent. It's less popular in Dartmouth and Bedford/Sackville.

Samplings

- The poll was based on a sample of 400 adult residents polled between Feb. 2 to 14.

Three men charged with robbery, threats

CRIME Three men in the early 20s are facing charges of robbery and uttering threats after an incident on Monday night in the 100 block of Wyse Road in Dartmouth.

Halifax Regional Police say at 8:47 p.m., a 15-year-old male youth was approached by the men and told to empty his pockets.

Police say the victim complied and handed over cash and other items, but afterwards, one of the suspects put him in a headlock, went through his pockets, took his shoes and sweater and punched him in the face.

Police say an officer passing by arrested two of the suspects without incident. The third suspect was also arrested nearby but received minor injuries after a brief foot pursuit with police. The victim also received minor injuries.

Shane David Myers, 20, from Lucasville, Michael Leroy Snooks, 21, of Dartmouth and Anthony Michael Stundon, 21, of Beaver Bank, were also scheduled to appear in Dartmouth provincial court yesterday. Stundon is also facing charges of breaching his recognizance order.

PHILIP CROUCHER/
METRO HALFIAX

News in brief

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY Police are looking for three people in Cole Harbour after an attempted robbery at gunpoint. Halifax RCMP say a 19-year-old male was walking home on Flagstone Drive around 1 a.m. yesterday when two males confronted him. Police say one of them pointed a handgun at the victim's face and demanded he empty his pockets. The victim refused and ran away to call police. METRO HALIFAX

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Man pleads not guilty in case of assaulted infant
A 20-year-old man has pleaded not guilty to aggravated assault on an infant in Amherst provincial court. The man was charged in late November for assaulting the four-month-old infant. A publication ban has been imposed on anything leading to the identification of the victim or accused. AMHERST DAILY NEWS

Golfers to get spring start

Mild weather leading Grandview, other courses to open early

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax

Golfers in HRM will need to find excuses to get out of work even earlier this year.

The Grandview Golf and Country Club in Dartmouth will open up all 18 holes this Saturday. General manager and pro Gavan Fitzpatrick said yesterday it's the earliest the course has opened in 27 years of operation, and possibly the earliest of any course in metro Halifax — ever.

"It just blows me away," Fitzpatrick said. "The earliest we've opened before was April 14, that would have been 1999. It's a record ... it's the earliest that I know of in history that somebody's opened in Metro."

Fitzpatrick said the conditions at Grandview are comparable to what they were in mid-April last year.

"We don't have any moisture, any water on the golf course, and we also don't have any ground frost right now," he said, crediting the good conditions to a mild winter and an early spring.

Other courses Metro News was able to contact yesterday are also opening early. Granite Springs is shooting for April 1, Indian Lake the following day and Brightwood and Hartlen Point for mid-April.

Fitzpatrick said the early open may take a toll on the Grandview course initially, but he'll risk it.

"Obviously there's not going to be very much growth on this golf course in the next three weeks," he said. "But having said that, I'm a firm believer that you gotta take advantage of this Maritime weather when you can."

Fitzpatrick has good reason to want to take advantage of unseasonably warm temperatures — the weather worked against golfers last season.

"We had such a bad season last year, we ended early, we had 21 days of rain in July," he said.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Gavan Fitzpatrick, general manager at the Grandview Golf and Country Club in Dartmouth, clears some debris yesterday near the 18th green. Grandview is opening Saturday morning — the first day of spring — which is the earliest opening ever for the course.

Moncton council to pursue new arena

PROJECT City council in Moncton, N.B., is going to pursue a new arena and events centre to be built somewhere downtown.

Council has accepted a committee report that recommends the city build a new 9,000-seat facility at a cost of between $75 million and $80 million. But there are conditions on the project going ahead, including the development of an acceptable business plan.

The city says it must also get infrastructure funding from Ottawa and the province, and there must be an agreement with a major tenant for the building.

The arena would replace The Coliseum, which is almost 40 years old and is located on the western edge of the city.

The Halifax Metro Centre is the largest arena in Atlantic Canada with a seating capacity of more than 10,500.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dog saved from house fire

HAMMONDS PLAINS A family dog was rescued from an afternoon house fire in Hammonds Plains yesterday.

Passersby noticed smoke coming out of a home on Rockcrest Drive at about 3 p.m. and called 911. An off-duty RCMP officer who lives in the area ran to the home and tried to get inside.

"He was trying to get into the residence to make sure nobody was in there. He knew there was a pet in there, so he was trying to get the pet, but the flames were beating him back," said RCMP spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin.

Firefighters arrived and found flames coming from the kitchen. No people were home and the dog was rescued. The homeowner arrived shortly after and the dog was taken to a veterinarian for treatment.

Fire officials say they were quickly able to extinguish the flames. They weren't yet able to say how much damage was caused.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

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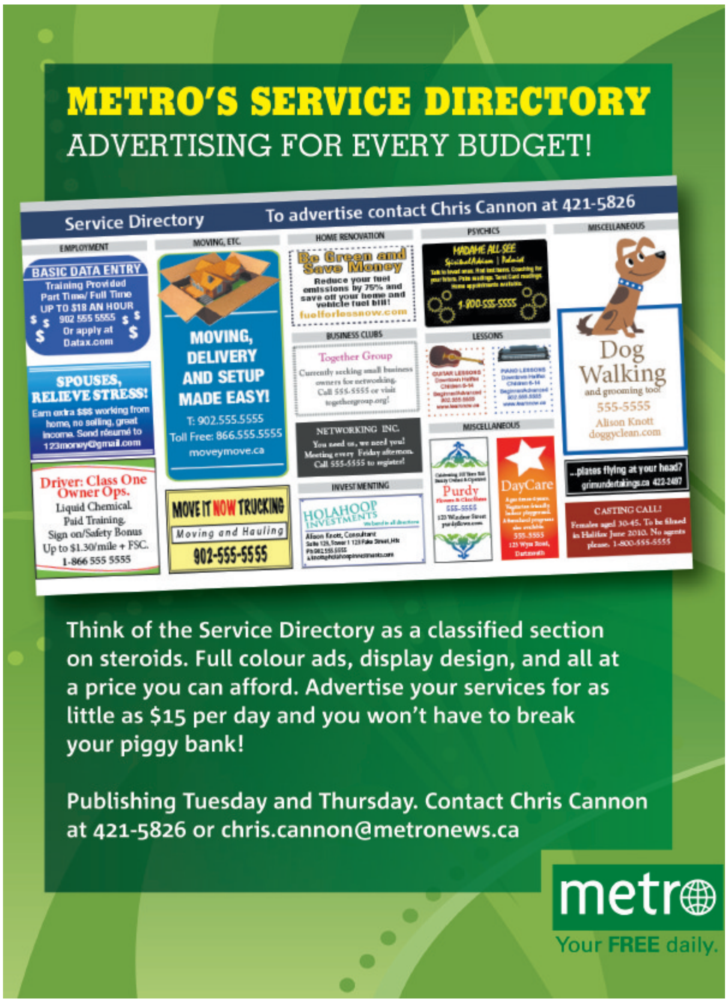
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Layton seeking limits on prorogation powers
Jack Layton is asking the House of Commons to set limits on the prime minister's power to suspend Parliament. The NDP leader is to introduce a motion today spelling out that the prime minister shall not prorogue Parliament for longer than seven days without the consent of a majority of MPs in the Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Harper snuffs pot wishes

Stephen Harper, left, may be using "new media" to reach younger voters, but he's not going to grant them their favourite wish: To legalize pot. Harper fielded questions from Canadians during a 40-minute YouTube interview yesterday. Almost 2,000 questions were submitted by the public for others to vote on, and the favourites — by far — concerned legalization of marijuana. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories propose harsher new crime rules for youth

The Conservative government wants to tighten the Youth Criminal Justice Act to give judges more power to consider "denunciation and deterrence" when sentencing violent offenders.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson also wants to be able to charge and sentence youths with violent criminal acts when they engage in reckless behaviour — such as a car chase — that endangers the public, but doesn't actually injure anyone.

"This legislation will simplify the rules to keep these offenders off the streets when necessary to protect society," Nicholson said at a news conference yesterday, where he was flanked by the mothers of two youths who died at the hands of young offenders.

"In the handling of other violent and repeat young offenders, the court often lacks the tools necessary to impose appropriate sentences," said Nicholson.

He cited the example of a young offender who "demonstrates repeat criminal behaviour, or a casual attitude to the law, or a complete lack of empathy for his or her victim."

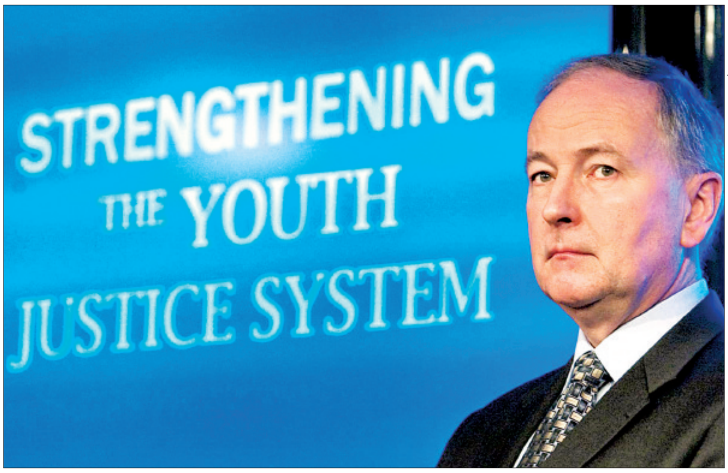
Liberals and the Bloc Québécois immediately denounced the changes as a regressive move toward retribution in the justice system, as opposed to rehabilitation.

"Our view is the proposals that the government unveiled today do change the basic assumption that youth criminal justice should be about rehabilitation and reintegration and shift it towards a regime that would seek to punish and make an example out of young people," said Liberal justice critic Dominic LeBlanc.

"The evidence indicates that's not effective."

Serge Menard, the Bloc justice critic, put it more directly: "In short, the government wants judges to make an example of someone," he told the House of Commons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Justice Rob Nicholson listens to other speakers yesterday in Ottawa after making an announcement regarding an amendment to the Youth Criminal Justice Act to strengthen its handling of repeat young offenders.

Etiquette guide helps reporters cover sometimes touchy Paralympics.
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Raising seal quotas 'a little stupid:' Fisherman

HUNT A fisherman from Newfoundland and Labrador with more than 50 years of experience hunting seals says there's no sense in raising the allowable catch for the mammals until market conditions improve.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans announced Monday it's raising the quota for this year's East Coast hunt by 50,000 harp seals.

But Jack Troake, a veteran sealer from Twillingate, said the gesture "sounds a little stupid," given a slumping market where seals only fetch about $15 each — a steep drop from the record $105 per pelt in 2006.

"If the seal fishery takes off again and if everything's in our favour, then it's hard for them to justify cutting back, that's one positive side to it, I guess," he said yesterday. "But as for now, it's no good to us."

Troake said fishermen had trouble meeting quotas when they were pocketing $100 a seal.

Troake, who didn't participate in last year's hunt, said it doesn't make economic sense to participate this year either.

Seal hunt opponents said upping the quota is one in a series of political stunts that began last May when Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean sampled a slice of raw seal heart in Rankin Inlet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No seal? No booze

- French wine and British beer will no longer be stocked by Nunavut's government-run liquor stores. A motion banning booze from Europe in the territory's stores passed the legislature last week. Fred Schell, who came up with the motion, says it's a symbolic way of responding to the European Union's ban on seal products.

Burkas don't count: Commission

RIGHTS Women wearing religious face-coverings aren't entitled to special treatment when receiving certain government services, the Quebec human rights commission said in a report likely to bolster attempts to curb religious accommodations in the province.

The rights commission has released a series of highly anticipated suggestions for dealing with accommodation issues faced by Quebec's health insurance provider.

In the one likely to garner the most attention, the commission declared that women wearing niqabs or burkas have no right to demand to be identified by female health-care workers.

It said lifting a veil for a male worker to check their identity against a medicare card takes little time and, moreover, takes place in a neutral setting.

The rulings, which are not legally binding, come as the so-called reasonable accommodations debate heats up again in Quebec, causing political headaches for the province's Charest government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CONDEMNATION Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon is taking a harder line against Israel's controversial decision to build settlements in East Jerusalem and now says he condemns the plan. That's the strongest language to date by a Conservative cabinet minister against Israel. It comes in response to an Israeli plan to build 1,600 new apartments in a Jewish neighbourhood in disputed East Jerusalem. The Harper government has been accused of tilting its Middle East policy too much toward Israel in the past.

NEW PHONES Google's answer to the iPhone is now available to Canadians. The Nexus One can be purchased and shipped to Canada through Google's website for $529. One model is ready to work on the Rogers 3G network and the other is compatible with Wind Mobile's network. The Nexus One is not yet compatible with the Bell and Telus 3G networks, Google says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PM to meet with G20 'sherpas'
Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to make an unusual cameo appearance this week at a key meeting in Ottawa of top negotiators — known as sherpas — from each of the G20 countries. The meeting will shape the agenda for the big June summit in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Linking business
CANADA
AP PHOTO/LEFTERIS PITARAKIS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks to the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce in London yesterday.

G20 must cut deficits: Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says other developed nations should come up with clearer plans on how they are going to get their weighty budget deficits under control.

Flaherty also urged the Group of 20 leading and industrialized countries to step up work on financial reforms ahead of the annual spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington D.C.

Flaherty said Greece's debt troubles were a timely reminder that world leaders need to agree on lasting international financial reform, and that tackling big deficits is necessary to restore confidence.

"We're obviously concerned about bumps in the road as we move forward with economic recovery from the crisis," Flaherty told reporters in London. "Issues like the situation in Greece are of concern."

"We look forward to other developed nations in the world showing their plans to move out of deficit towards balanced budgets over time," he added.

Britain's budget deficit is expected to reach 12.8 per cent of gross domestic product in 2009-10, while the U.S. deficit hit 9.9 per cent of GDP last year.

Canada, which currently holds the rotating leadership of the Group of Seven countries, has one of the smaller deficits in the bloc — 3.5 per cent of GDP.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Early Childhood Educators deserve a living wage

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in Nova Scotia are among the lowest paid in the country, this despite the fact that they have among the highest levels of training.

Child care workers in this province are tired of being treated so poorly.

That's why CUPE ECEs at five St. Joseph's Children's Centres in Halifax have given their union a 100% strike mandate, to back their contract demands.

These employees — almost all of them women — are hoping this sends a very strong message to their employer that it's time to step up to the plate with a decent wage increase.

Inadequate provincial funding

For too many years, provincial governments of various stripes have chosen to ignore this increasingly pressing issue.

Working families desperately need more child care spaces but the funding has simply not been there.

Workers are leaving the field because the pay is so low, there are no pensions and benefits plans are more than they can afford.

Under Stephen Harper, child care has been virtually ignored by the federal government.

The Dexter government has an opportunity to address this longstanding inequity.

The Department of Community Services has a pivotal role to play in setting fees and other policies that will improve the working lives of ECEs.

If you are a parent with children at one of these centres (Brunswick Street, Quinpool Rd., Clayton Park, Scotia Square, Bedford) you can help us reach a fair settlement by contacting the chair of the St. Joseph's Board of Directors *AND* by calling the Minister of Community Services, Denise Peterson-Rafuse, and urging her to increase funding for child care in Nova Scotia.

CUPE | Canadian Union of Public Employees

591-G.608

Feds look at backup for future flu vaccines

HEALTH The federal government wants to explore options for Canada's next pandemic flu vaccine contract, telling industry it will consider whether it is feasible to have a backup deal with a company other than its main supplier.

But it appears GlaxoSmithKline has a virtual lock on the main contract, unless another manufacturer decides to build a new flu vaccine facility in Canada.

The notice said the government's future strategy will be based on three elements, the first of which is awarding a long-term contract for 100 per cent of the country's pandemic vaccine needs to a domestically located manufacturer.

Under the current circumstances, that appears to be code for GSK.

"Unless somebody else is willing to invest a huge amount of money in building a competitive infrastructure over three years, yeah," said Dr. Perry Kendall, chief medical officer of health for British Columbia.

> **"You need a domestic capacity."**
> Dr. Perry Kendall, B.C. CMO

GSK's plant at Ste-Foy, Que., is the only flu vaccine production facility in Canada. The company holds Canada's current pandemic flu vaccine contract, which expires March 31, 2011. Having a domestic supplier of vaccine has been a key component of Canada's pandemic planning since the U.S. refused to allow the export of vaccine destined for Canada during the 1976 swine flu scare.

"And that could still happen," Kendall said. "So if you want to avoid that happening, you need a domestic capacity."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bill would consider effect of GM seeds on exports

AGRICULTURE Members of Parliament are debating a private member's bill this week that its proponents say would fill a critical gap in regulations governing genetically engineered seeds.

The bill presented by NDP agriculture critic Alex Atamanenko would require an analysis of potential harm to export markets before sales of any new genetically engineered seeds are allowed.

Canadian approvals of genetically engineered seeds are currently based on environmental and health assessments, but Atamanenko says they ignore their potential effects on export markets.

Canada's flax industry has been shut out of its largest export market after traces of Triffid, a genetically modified form of the crop ordered destroyed 10 years ago, was found in shipments.

The European Union buys 70 per cent of Canadian flax and has a zero-tolerance policy regarding genetically modified organisms.

Alex Atamanenko

Officials say Canada's entire $320-million industry is threatened.

"Farmers have been hit hard enough over the years," Atamanenko said yesterday. "We have seen what has happened to flax; we have seen the other crisis that is hitting hog producers, cattle producers.

"It's important to prevent happening to wheat and alfalfa what is happening to flax."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New federal program promises free Internet access for rural sites
The federal government says its Rural Broadband Strategy will fund access at sites such as libraries and drop-in centres. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Listen to us to reduce train crashes: Agency

Safety board says advice often goes unheeded

The agency charged with investigating transportation accidents has cited nine critical issues facing the country's transport system — and collisions at railway crossings head the list.

One issue is clear in the Transportation Safety Board's so-called watchlist, released yesterday: too often, its advice goes unheeded and the same problems keep killing people.

"We know from hard experience, if persistent problems are not addressed, there will be another accident," said board chair Wendy Tadros. "That is why we have our watchlist."

Agency records show 380 incidents at railway crossings in the last 15 years — one every two weeks — and 106 deaths due to collisions between vehicles and passenger trains.

"The risk of passenger trains colliding with vehicles remains too high in busy rail corridors," says the board, noting cars and trucks traverse 20,000 railway crossings daily.

> **"The risk of passenger trains colliding with vehicles remains too high."**
> Transportation Safety Board report

The collisions continue despite advance warning signs and, at about a third of public crossings, flashing lights, bells and gates.

Transport Canada conducted safety assessments to identify crossings that required upgrading before authorizing an increase in train speed limits along the Quebec-Windsor corridor in 1993.

"These assessments are nearly 20 years old," says the agency. "They no longer reflect the present risks, nor do they consider emerging ones."

The TSB also called for clearer warning signs at steep crossings after a 2008 collision between a passenger train and an immobilized tractor-trailer — the sixth on the dangers of vehicles crossing railways in busy corridors since 1999.

"Transport Canada and the railways must conduct safety assessments to identify high-risk crossings along busy passenger train routes and make the necessary improvements," it said. "We're not saying it will be easy, but we're saying it's time to act." THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yoshimi Inaba, president and COO of Toyota Motor North America, waits to appear before the Commons Transport Committee.

Toyota apologizes to Canada over problems

RECALL Toyota Canada extended an apology to Canadians about the safety problems of its vehicles yesterday, and admitted it should have acted sooner.

Appearing before a Commons committee of MPs, Toyota officials conceded they were looking for a solution to a problem involving sticking gas pedals before they notified Transport Canada or the public.

Company officials turned in an attempt to soothe anger among the Commons transport committee that the company has treated Canada like a second-class citizen. Acceding to demands by opposition MPs, the company decided on Monday that its North American head, Yoshi Inaba, would also appear with his Canadian executives.

The officials faced stiff questioning from MPs, including an exchange with Conservative Jeff Watson, who asked Toyota officials why they had not reported customer complaints about a sticky gas pedal to Transport Canada during a meeting on Nov. 25. At that time, both sides talked about whether a U.S. floor mat recall had any impact on the mats in domestic vehicles.

"In retrospect, would it (have) been good to have had a dialogue about it (with Transport Canada)," responded Stephen Beatty, managing director of Toyota Canada.

But he said Toyota had still not confirmed it had a defect in the car at the time, only "an issue" that it was investigating. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges may be laid following B.C. avalanche

INVESTIGATION The RCMP is investigating whether criminal charges should be laid in a deadly avalanche near Revelstoke, B.C., that they say was triggered by snowmobilers.

A 10-person team from the major-crimes unit is looking into the events surrounding the slide on Boulder Mountain and trying to determine who organized the unsanctioned Big Iron Shoot-Out.

Kurtis Reynolds and Shay Snortland — two 33-year-old Alberta men — were killed and 31 others hurt Saturday when a wall of snow came down on about 200 people.

An avalanche warning had been in effect when three daredevil sledders apparently began competing to see who could race highest up the mountain. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Road troubles in balmy Manitoba

STUCK TRUCK The unusually warm weather in Manitoba almost spelled disaster for a truck driver whose vehicle got stuck on a melting winter road.

Police say the 52-year-old was stranded for more than 24 hours without food or water. He was found shaken up but healthy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. warns against travel to Haiti
The U.S. State Department is expanding its warning against travel to Haiti, saying that four Americans have been killed since the Jan. 12 earthquake. It comes a week after two European aid workers were kidnapped and held for five days before being released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Proposal turns to shark prey

China, Japan and Russia have helped defeat a proposal at a UN wildlife meeting that would have boosted conservation efforts for sharks. The nonbinding measure called for increased transparency in the shark trade and more research into the threat posed to sharks by illegal fishing. It had been expected to pass easily, but the U.S., the European Union and other supporters couldn't muster the two-thirds majority needed in yesterday's vote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clashes in Jerusalem

MIDDLE EAST Hundreds of Palestinians in east Jerusalem set tires and garbage bins ablaze yesterday and hurled rocks at Israeli riot police, who responded with rubber bullets and tear gas. The heaviest clashes in months broke out as an American envoy abruptly cancelled a visit, deepening a U.S.-Israeli diplomatic feud.
The violence spread across the eastern side of the volatile city. Angered by plans for more Jewish housing in predominantly Arab east Jerusalem, Palestinians clashed with Israeli forces throughout the day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jogger killed by plane

Wrong place, wrong time as aircraft crash-lands on beach

A father of two on business in Hilton Head, South Carolina, was jogging on the beach and listening to his iPod when he was hit from behind and killed by a small plane making an emergency landing, officials said yesterday.

Robert Gary Jones, 38, of Georgia, died instantly Monday evening when he was hit by the single-engine plane, which had lost its propeller, said Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen. The pilot's vision was blocked by oil on the windshield. The coroner said Jones apparently did not see or hear the plane, which was "basically gliding."

> **"I've got a lot of issues going on right now. I've got a plane that's all torn up. And I've got a young man that I killed."**
> Edward Smith, owner and pilot of the plane that hit man on a South Carolina beach

His mother, Pauline Jones, said yesterday that he was in Hilton Head for work but was supposed to fly home to suburban Atlanta today for his daughter's third birthday.

Federal Aviation Administration records show the experimental Lancair IV-P plane that hit Robert Jones was registered to Edward I. Smith of Virginia.

Smith was on the beach with his plane yesterday and confirmed he was the pilot. He said he did not want to talk about the crash and offered few details.

"I've got a lot of issues going on right now. I've got a plane that's all torn up. And I've got a young man that I killed," he said.

The plane started leaking oil at about 4,000 metres and tried originally to make it to Hilton Head Airport, said fire and rescue spokeswoman Joheida Fister.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bloody, but not violent, protest

THAILAND Thai protesters seeking a change of government turned to shock tactics yesterday, pouring litres of their own blood into a glistening puddle at the gate of the prime minister's office. The dramatic gesture, repeated in front of the headquarters of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiava's Democrat Party, grabbed attention but put the "Red Shirt" protest movement no closer to its goal of forcing new elections.

More than 100,000 demonstrators from all over the country gathered in Bangkok on Sunday, vowing to keep up their protest until victory. But Abhisit has rejected their demands to dissolve Parliament, saying only that he will listen to the protesters' point of view and leaving the situation in a stalemate.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Protesters hold a bottle of donated blood before spilling it in front of Thailand's Government House yesterday in Bangkok.

Reporters asked one of the protest leaders what their next move would be, and Veera Musikapong replied, "I want to know that myself."

Thousands of Red Shirts formed long lines yesterday morning to have their blood drawn by nurses, a day after their leaders vowed to collect at least 1,000 litres of blood to spill at Government House. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

UKRAINE The governing coalition in parliament says it will pass a law preventing the country from joining any military alliances, including NATO. The coalition supporting newly elected President Viktor Yanukovych says in a formal statement of intent released yesterday that the legislation will "enshrine Ukraine's nonaligned status in law." The move would help the Russia-friendly Yanukovych fulfill a campaign promise.

NEW YORK Beekeepers in New York City no longer have to keep the honey of their labours a secret. The city's Board of Health decided yesterday to allow beekeeping in the city after a long ban. Some New Yorkers have secretly tended beehives on rooftops for years in defiance of city regulations. The code had placed bees in the same category as dangerous animals, including hyenas and venomous snakes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kidnapped boy released safely

PAKISTAN Kidnappers released a five-year-old British boy unharmed yesterday, almost two weeks after abducting him from his grandparents' house in central Pakistan, officials said.

A senior provincial official said a ransom was paid for the freedom of Sahil Saeed, but he did not identify who abducted the boy and received the money.

Saeed was found in a small village in Punjab province, where armed robbers seized him on March 4, said Interior Minister Rehman Malik.

Pakistani authorities have said someone in the family was involved in the abduction — a charge the family denies. One relative also said yesterday that no ransom was paid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy **Shortest man dies**

AP PHOTO/IBRAHIM USTA, FILE

He Pingping, the world's shortest man (seen in this recent file photo with the world's tallest man, Sultan Kosen of Turkey), has died at the age of 21, after developing chest problems while filming a television program in Italy. Pingping, of China, was 74.6 centimetres tall.

Scandal baffles church leaders in Germany

CONFERENCE The Roman Catholic bishops in Pope Benedict XVI's native Bavaria sought yesterday to deal with a sexual abuse scandal whose ever-widening scope has left church leaders baffled.

"I would not have expected such a multitude of cases," Bavarian Bishop Ludwig Schick, who is hosting his colleagues' meeting at Vierzehnheiligen, Germany, told Bayerischer Rundfunk Radio.

He said he was shaken and ashamed of what had taken place within the church. "It is bitter and it is hard, but it has to be dealt with," Schick said. "This festering blister needs to be opened up and dried out in order for it to heal."

In Bavaria alone, more than 100 former students of Catholic institutions have come forward with claims of physical or sexual abuse. Some of those cases involve the prestigious Regensburg Domspatzen boys' choir once led by the pope's older brother, Rev. Georg Ratzinger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Feeling blue over the Planet Earth

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

What's 12 feet tall and blue all over? If you've seen the movie Avatar — and who hasn't? — you'll know the answer to that question is the Na'vi, the incredibly cool, nearly naked aliens with cornrows and braids who live on the incredibly cool, beautiful planet known as Pandora, all threatened by the techno-military-industrial (and little) bad guys from Earth, who lust for a metaphorical mineral called “unobtanium.”

That's us, folks.

People have begun to notice a strange thing when they take off their 3-D glasses and re-enter the real world after a two-hour 40-minute exposure to Pandora. This beautiful place, inhabited by intelligent (and really tall) beings who have a direct link to Aywa, a.k.a. Mother Nature, is so vividly drawn that the planet we actually live on, Earth, seems like a giant slum.

Moviegoers are pouring their hearts out on blogs and chat rooms, all mourning the loss of Eden, er Earth, wishing they were cool and connected like the Na'vi.

There's at least one group that's not lying around in a Pandora-induced coma. The Ancient Forest Alliance, based in Victoria, gets Avatar and understands its value in spawning a whole new generation of Na'vi-loving environmentalists. Not daunted by the anti-global warming backlash, the alliance has picked a likely forest near Port Renfrew and dubbed it “Avatar Grove.”

Sounds so much better than Tree Farm Licence No. 46.

We dare you, says the alliance, to clear-cut this little slice of Pandora on Earth. If I'm the Teal-Jones Group, which owns the licence, I'd send my PR department to the movie to take notes. Can you imagine Hollywood actresses in cornrows chained to trees, weeping for Avatar Grove? The Ancient Forest Alliance can.

It's entirely possible the Last Battle for the Planet Earth will be played out in Canada. After all, James Cameron, Avatar's creator, is Canadian; his art director studied the Athabasca oilsands project for its lurid images of environmental destruction.

And British Columbia is one of the last Pandora-like preserves on Earth. Its ancient forests (sounds better than old growth, no?) protect 1,600 species at risk and 60 per cent of the nation's evergreen trees.

Even the Port Renfrew Chamber of Commerce, once a bastion of hewers of wood, now believes the best bet for the future is to save Avatar Grove for the tourists. If you loved the movie, stay tuned for the sequel — it's coming soon to an ancient forest near you.

ShareYourViews
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Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: How do you like to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Otis Wien
Halifax
A: I like to have a couple beers with the boys. That's about it.

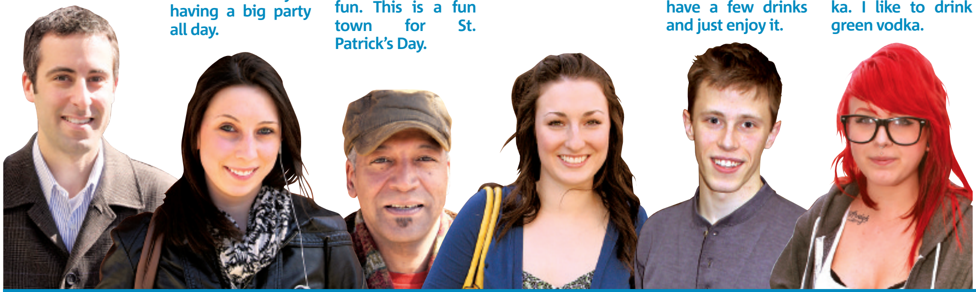
Lauren Meisner
Annapolis Valley
A: I like to drink. This year I want to go to the Gorsebrook — they're having a big party all day.

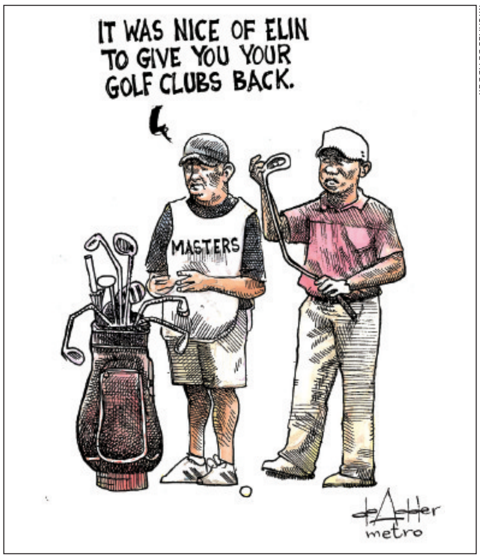
Kevin Brown
Halifax
A: Usually I work, but if I'm not working I go out with my friends, have a few drinks, have some fun. This is a fun town for St. Patrick's Day.

Emma Tuck
Calgary
A: I went on a pub crawl and wore green tights with a green fanny pack. It was awesome.

Michael Machan
Edmonton
A: I like to get together with friends and family and just go out and celebrate. Sit down, have a few drinks and just enjoy it.

Emily Jacob
Vernon, B.C.
A: (I like to) drink. Usually I drink at a house party somewhere. (I will drink) anything like vodka. I like to drink green vodka.





MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Pacific Rim Mining deepens its loss
Pacific Rim Mining Corp. is searching for new projects after putting exploration projects in El Salvador on hold following the government revoking its mining permit, the company said yesterday after reporting deeper losses in the third quarter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

WestJet eyes new markets

AIRLINE WestJet Airlines Ltd. will continue to press into international markets through deals with other carriers, the company's incoming chief executive said.

Durfy
- WestJet announced late Monday that Durfy, 43, would step down for personal reasons.

The airline already has plans to roll out code-share deals with Air France, KLM and Southwest Airlines.

WestJet wants to see traffic from Asia, South America and elsewhere in Europe come to Canada on its network, Gregg Saretsky said a day after the surprising resignation of Sean Durfy as president and CEO, effective April 1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

China Shanghai gets new hub

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A passenger goes through a security check at Hongqiao Airport's new second terminal that opened yesterday in Shanghai, China. The massive terminal and transport hub hopes to help the city handle the 70 million or more visitors it expects to attend the upcoming World Expo.

Honda gets pedal complaints

VEHICLES Honda is recalling hundreds of thousands of vehicles in Canada and the United States after some of the Japanese carmaker's customers complained about the feel of brake pedals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recall cost may be $2B

A massive global recall, mounting legal bills and a battered reputation add up to a very expensive problem for Toyota.

With new developments emerging almost daily, predicting a final price tag for the Japanese automaker is a calculation that only some analysts have attempted. Toyota itself estimated that the worldwide recall, now involving some 8.5 million cars, could cost up to 180 billion yen ($2.02 billion), with 100 billion yen for repairs and 80 billion yen in lost sales. It said the recalls may dent global demand for Toyota models by 100,000 vehicles.

Analysts with their own estimates say the total is bound to climb higher.

JP Morgan's Kohei Takahashi expects Toyota to take a one-time 500 billion yen ($5.6 billion) hit, including recall-related costs and litigation settlements. He has lowered his estimate for operating profit next year to 540 billion yen ($6 billion) from 760 billion yen, as higher profit margins in emerging markets soften the blow of recall expenses. Toyota still expects to post a net profit of 80 billion yen ($899 million) in the next fiscal year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

ISOTOPES Nuclear medicine company MDS Inc. has completed its strategic repositioning and will now focus on cost-cutting and improving its disrupted medical isotope business. Ottawa-based MDS said in September that it would sell off most of its business units to focus on its Nordion nuclear medicine division, which sells radioactive isotopes used in medical imaging and sterilization. MDS shareholders recently approved a motion to change the company's name to Nordion Inc. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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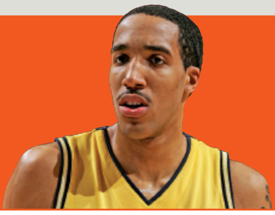
Dal's Peters AUS female athlete of the week
Celia Peters of the Dalhousie Tigers has been named Atlantic University Sport female athlete of the week after winning silver in the 600 metres and bronze in the 1,000 at the national track and field championships on the weekend in Windsor, Ont. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Puerto Rico adds Sims

The Puerto Rico Capitanes have loaded up with the addition of one-time NBA centre Courtney Sims, last year's D-League MVP, left. The Halifax Rainmen, 9-4, host the first-place Capitanes, 14-2, on Sunday at 2 p.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Lions exit with tough loss

Weeks Crushers dispatch Halifax with buzzer-beating goal

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Lions' season is over, and it couldn't have ended in a much more abrupt, heart-wrenching fashion.

Dan Joyce beat the buzzer with the game-winning goal with just seven seconds left in regulation to lift the Pictou County Weeks Crushers to a 4-3 win over the Lions before a crowd of 1,123 at the Forum last night.

Joyce's goal, a low hard shot from inside the blue line, gave the Crushers a six-game win in the Maritime Junior A Hockey League's Bent Division best-of-seven semifinal.

"Seven seconds left and one squeaked by," said Lions captain Robbie Veriker outside a dejected dressing room afterward.

"That's how quick a series can turn and end for you."

Justin Belanger and Tanner Manson scored for the Lions in the second period before the Crushers battled back to tie it before the end of the frame. The score stayed deadlocked at 2-2 until a dramatic final three minutes.

Sean Hoyt put Pictou County up on a short-handed breakaway with 2:49 remaining but it was Ben Clarke on the same power play who tied it back up just 67 seconds later for Halifax.

The Lions lost the final three games after grabbing an early 2-1 series lead.

"One minute we were up in the series, the next minute, we were down, and the next day, it's over," Veriker said.

"There's not much you can say after a series like that."

Joyce ended a night of frustration for the Crushers.

They struck iron a half-dozen times behind Lions goalie Kody Blois, who finished with 43 saves.

But the young Lions — who hadn't been to the playoffs since 2006-07 when the franchise was located in Antigonish — were pleased with their effort as a seven-point underdog.

"For an inexperienced team to play against a team like that and battle and compete, we did a pretty good job," said Lions head coach Troy Ryan.

The majority of the Lions' roster is eligible to return next season, and Veriker — one of the few without eligibility remaining — sees a bright future.

"I'm sure they're going to go a lot further next year," he said.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Pictou County forward Adam Chipman celebrates his team's second-period power play goal against the Halifax Lions last night.

Four Huskies get all-star nods

AUS HOCKEY Four members of the Saint Mary's Huskies have earned Atlantic University Sport men's hockey all-star selections.

Fifth-year captain Marc Rancourt and third-year defenceman Andrew Hotham were named to the first team, while third-year defenceman David MacDonald and third-year right-winger Cody Thornton earned second-team nods.

The Huskies won their second straight AUS banner on Monday with a 3-0 sweep of the St. Francis Xavier X-Men at the Forum.

Rancourt finished second to AUS most valuable player Hunter Tremblay in scoring with 41 points in 27 games, while Hotham led all blue-liners with 39 points in 27 games.

Defenceman Luke Gallant, a Bedford native in his third season with the New Brunswick Varsity Reds, was also on the first team, while former Halifax Mooseheads forward Bryce Swan cracked the second team.

Rancourt

Huskies goaltender Neil Conway was named to the all-rookie team, while third-year forward Cam Fergus was selected as most sportsmanlike player for the second straight season. **METRO HALIFAX**

Sports in brief

CIS BASKETBALL The second-seeded Cape Breton Capers will face the seventh-seeded Calgary Dinos in Friday's quarterfinals at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's basketball championship in Ottawa this weekend. The Dinos finished as Canada West's runner-up, while the Capers beat St. F-X in the Atlantic University Sport final. **METRO HALIFAX**

SCOREBOARD

PBL

STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Puerto Rico	14	2	.875	--
Lawton-Fort Sill	13	2	.867	0.5
Rochester	11	3	.786	2.0
HALIFAX	9	5	.643	4.0
Vermont	6	7	.462	6.5
Manchester	4	12	.250	10.0
Maryland	3	11	.214	10.0
Buffalo	3	12	.200	10.5
Quebec	2	11	.154	10.5

SUNDAY
Puerto Rico at **HALIFAX**, 2 p.m.

QMJHL

PLAYOFFS

SAINT JOHN VS. P.E.I.
FRIDAY
P.E.I. at Saint John, 7:30 p.m.

MONCTON VS. CAPE BRETON
FRIDAY
Cape Breton vs. Moncton, 7 p.m.

HALIFAX vs. PUERTO RICO
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PBL ALL STAR WEEKEND

Clarke under microscope as off-season begins

MOOSEHEADS Garrett Clarke is on the hot seat as the Halifax Mooseheads pack their bags for another long off-season.

The 17-year-old defenceman spent the season in and out of the doghouse of head coach and general manager Cam Russell, and his inability to stay consistently disciplined is a topic of front-office conversation in the aftermath of a last-place campaign.

"I sat down and had a chat with him (on Monday) and that's something I'm going to have to talk to (owner) Bobby Smith about," Russell said.

"The culture of our team is to have a team-first attitude … We'll have to make a decision with Garrett. There's a tremendous amount of skill and potential … But the attitude has to be right, too."

Clarke finished one penalty minute off the QMJHL lead with 165 minutes in the sin bin and collected six goals and 16 assists for 22 points in 45 games.

Russell benched Clarke for a couple of games late in the season and didn't get the response he hoped for.

"In spurts, but there definitely has to be more progress than that," Russell said.

"He has to understand, the way that he plays ... He's a marked man. Anything borderline is going to put him in the penalty box."

The Mooseheads have a number of veterans who will draw interest in trade talks this summer, including captain Tomas Knotek. Clarke might be the only youngster who could be moved, especially with some enticing defencemen available in the draft and the Mooseheads holding either the No. 1 or 2 overall pick. "I'm not going to say his future is up in the air," Russell said. "I will say we're in the process of evaluating our whole roster and trying to figure out where everybody fits."

MATTHEW WUEST/ METRO HALIFAX

Garrett Clarke finished one minute short of the QMJHL lead with 165 PIM this season.

Campbell out 7-8 weeks
Chicago Blackhawks defenceman Brian Campbell is expected to miss seven to eight weeks with collarbone and rib fractures suffered when he was hit from behind by Alex Ovechkin. Dr. Michael Terry said in a statement yesterday that Campbell will likely avoid surgery and is expected to make a full recovery. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Tiger Woods adjusts the 2002 Masters Green Jacket in this file photo. Woods announced yesterday that he plans to play in this year's Masters, ending his break from golf.

Back for Masters

Woods announces his return to pro golf

For Tiger Woods, this figures to be a Masters like no other.

Woods said yesterday he will end more than four months of seclusion and play at Augusta National in three weeks, shielded by the most secure environment in golf as he competes for the first time since a sex scandal shattered his image.

"The Masters is where I won my first major and I view this tournament with great respect," Woods said in a statement. "After a long and necessary time away from the game, I feel like I'm ready to start my season at Augusta."

The Masters begins April 8.

No other major championship attracts such a large television audience, and that's under normal circumstances.

Already the most popular figure in golf with his 82 worldwide victories and 14 majors — four of them at the Masters — Woods returns as a disgraced star who will be under the greatest scrutiny of his career.

"We're all looking forward to having him back. We want him playing," Jim Furyk said. "I'm sure we're also looking forward to everything being business as usual. And it's going to take awhile. We know that."

Woods last competed Nov. 15 when he won the Australian Masters in Melbourne. Twelve days later, he rammed his SUV over a fire hydrant and into a tree outside his Florida home, an accident that set off sordid tales of extramarital affairs. Woods announced Dec. 11 that he would take an indefinite break to try to save his marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4-1 favourite

- Barely an hour after the announcement that Tiger Woods will make his return at Augusta National next month, the British bookmaker William Hill installed him as the 4-1 favourite. Phil Mickelson is second at 6-1, followed by Padraig Harrington at 16-1.

Crosby's golden puck headed to Hall

OLYMPICS It was one of the most famous pucks in hockey history, but a Finnish linesman had no idea what to do with it.

So he kept it.

But now the puck used to score the golden goal for Canada's Olympic men's hockey team is back in Canadian hands.

Officials announced yesterday it will be donated to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, with the proviso that it be allowed to travel around the country from time to time.

After all, said John Furlong, the chief executive officer of the Vancouver Olympic organizing committee, it's not just a six-ounce piece of rubber.

"It was bigger than the sport, it was a moment for Canada, that puck represented so many things to people," Furlong said. "It was a top-of-the-world moment."

Video replay helped Vancouver officials locate the puck, said Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson.

A Finnish linesman scooped up the puck and took it off the ice.

"When he got back to Finland, they found out that he still had the puck," Nicholson said, adding that he was glad it didn't end up on eBay but in the hands of International Ice Hockey Federation officials.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Sidney Crosby celebrates his game-winning goal in overtime in the ice hockey men's Olympic gold medal game.

Sports in brief

SOCCER Jose Mourinho engineered a 1-0 win for Inter Milan on his return to Chelsea yesterday, leading the Italian club to the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in four years. Samuel Eto'o scored with 12 minutes left to end Chelsea's 21-match unbeaten streak at home in the Champions League. CSKA Moscow reached the quarter-finals for the first time after beating Sevilla 2-1.

SKATING Canadian figure skater Joannie Rochette has been cleared to perform a tribute to her late mother in Friday's made-for-TV exhibition Thin Ice. Her plan to skate in the ABC show appeared in jeopardy after she withdrew from the upcoming world championships Monday. International Skating Union rules state an athlete can't choose an exhibition performance over an ISU-sanctioned event, but an exception was made in this case.

PARALYMPICS After losing for the first time in Monday's evening draw, Canada's wheelchair curling team got back to winning ways yesterday by thrashing Switzerland 15-1 in a game that only took six ends.

IDITAROD Lance Mackey has won the 1,770-kilometre Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race one more time. Mackey crossed the finish line in Nome yesterday afternoon to become the only musher in the 38-year history of the Iditarod to win four consecutive races.

BASKETBALL Allen Smith scored 14 points last night, including a pair of three-pointers during the Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions' second-half surge to a 61-44 victory over Winthrop in the NCAA tournament's opening game. The Golden Lions (18-15) will play Duke — the No. 1 seed in the West — on Friday in Jacksonville, Fla.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Toronto 4 Ottawa 1
Atlanta 4 Buffalo 3
Boston 5 Carolina 2
Phoenix 2 Tampa Bay 1
Washington 7 Florida 3
Minnesota 4 Edmonton 2
Colorado 5 St. Louis 3
Nashville 4 Philadelphia 3 (SO)
Dallas 8 San Jose 2
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 108 New Jersey 84
Cleveland 113 Detroit 101
Indiana 99 Charlotte 94
Memphis 104 Chicago 97
San Antonio 88 Miami 76
Washington at Denver
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento
Minnesota at Phoenix

For the most up-to-date results, visit metronews.ca/sports

Woodlawn Medical Clinic
is pleased to announce that they are relocating on March 22, 2010 to 92 Main Street, Dartmouth (above Lawtons Drugs)
We look forward to serving all our patients at our new location.
The present Clinic will be closed on March 20th and 21st to facilitate the move to the new location

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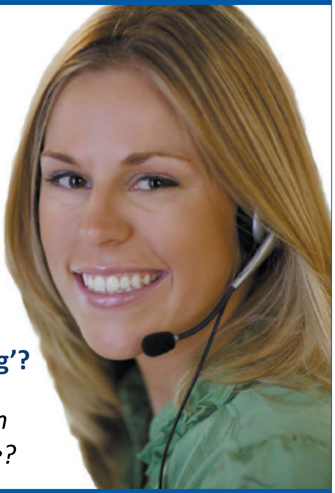


Former St. Clair student claims college did little to stop bullying
A former student at St. Clair College's Thames campus in Chatham has filed a human rights complaint against the college over alleged bullying. The student, who dropped out before last Christmas, says she feels the college did not do enough to stop the harassment she claims she was subjected to. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Student suing over expulsion

According to the Montreal Gazette, a Concordia University engineering student has gone to court to overturn the university's decision to expel him for allegedly forging a professor's signature to sign out a piece of equipment for a class project. The student has asked the Quebec Superior Court for a safeguard order to temporarily halt the expulsion in order for him to complete his courses and graduate. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

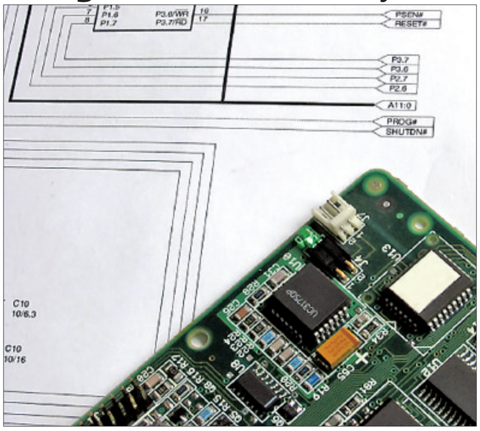
The evolving engineer

An industry that touches all walks of life has changed a lot in recent years

Engineering the Future

Metro Workology is focusing on careers and education in the engineering sector for the month of March to celebrate National Engineering Month. Check back every Wednesday.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada



Engineering has changed a lot over the years, from the pyramids, to steam locomotive, to computer engineering.

From the pyramids of Egypt to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the history of engineering tells the history of humanity.

Marie Carter, Engineers Canada's chief operating officer, said engineering only became a modern profession in the last century. It was born out of disaster, when a bridge built to cross the Saint Lawrence River collapsed in 1907. An engineering mistake was to blame and it cost the lives of 75 people. An incident in 1916 claimed more lives.

"The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers determined, 'We need to do something about this,'" Carter said from her Ottawa office. "'We need to have some checks and balances on who does engineering. They need to be properly trained.'"

Throughout the 1920s, engineering became increasingly regulated and the tradition of the Iron Ring was born. Originally built from the ruins of the Quebec bridge and now fashioned from stainless steel, each Canadian engineering student is presented a ring in a somber ceremony accompanying graduation.

Carter said scientific "trial and error" steadily improved the building blocks engineers use to build our world ever since.

"Just about everything that you see, do, touch, have as recreation, live with, use to eat, even the food, has got engineering involved in it," she said. "Engineers do touch just about every aspect of the way we live."

Allan Marble has seen the discipline transformed in his 50-plus years as an engineer, but it's not hard for the professor emeritus at Halifax's Dalhousie University to sum up what changed: The computer.

When Marble attended Dalhousie in the 1950s, it was a computer-free land. He vividly remembers the first time he saw a computer in 1962. It was primordial and clunky, but it revolutionized engineering.

In today's wired world, it seems hard to imagine slide rulers doing the job of computers, and that's because they didn't.

"It's an amazing change, really," Marble said over the phone from his Halifax home, adding that it's especially transformed electrical engineering.

"You're trying to analyze signals coming from various sources," he explains. "To do that before the computer, you had to do it by hand."

Now, a computer can work in real time at speeds well beyond human ability.

Computers made it possible for engineers to develop life-saving CT scanners and MRIs. "The amount of calculations done to get a CT image or an MRI image is just mind-boggling. Those things could never be done before the computer," he said.

Workology in **brief**

RESEARCHER BARRED FROM NSERC GRANTS OVER ALLEGED MISUSE CanWest News Service reports that the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada has barred a University of Calgary engineer from funding indefinitely due to allegations of plagiarism and misuse of funds while working at the University of Alberta. While NSERC will not name the accused scientist, CanWest News Service identifies him as Daniel Kwok, who, according to federal government documents obtained through an access-to-information request, spent as much as $150,000 on purchases that seemed "inconsistent" with his research grant proposals during his posting at uAlberta. In 2005, Kwok left Edmonton amid misconduct investigations for a new job at uCalgary, which was not told of the controversy at his previous posting.

FLAMING MISHAP A cooking instructor and student are recovering from injuries sustained during a mishap last week at the New Brunswick Community College's St. Andrews campus. The accident occurred while the instructor refilled a flambé pan with methyl hydrate fuel and it somehow ignited.

TRIMESTER AT UALBERTA? In an article published in Monday's Edmonton Journal, a pair of retired University of Alberta business professors propose the institution reorganize its teaching and related activities from a two-semester to a trimester, with the academic year organized into three equal, 13-week periods. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Dragons go back to their lair

Dragons' Den

Dianne Buckner

metronews.ca/dragonsden

What does it take to climb the corporate ladder right to the top? Wouldn't you love to know how to make the move from working stiff, to fabulously wealthy mogul?

That is the subject of The Road to Riches, the season finale of Dragons' Den tonight. The program tells the life stories of all five Dragons, none of whom were born into money, but who all found a way to parlay their abilities into huge business success.

There are a lot of revelations in the show: Who knew Kevin O'Leary looked like such a bad boy teenager, with long hair and a haze of smoke around him in every shot! Brett Wilson is unbelievably open, sharing deeply personal stories. There's an emotional scene where it's clear Robert Herjavec's heart is still aching over his mother's death.

We also get to visit with Arlene Dickinson and her four children at her sunny, southern getaway, and meet the partner who helped Jim Treliving along his journey from RCMP officer to savvy business-man.

What struck me most though is how hard every one of them worked. Consider Jim's experience at his first Boston Pizza franchise.

"I cooked, I did the prep in the morning, did all the stuff to get ready for opening," he says. "And then I cut pizza. After we closed at three in the morning I'd scrub the floor." He says he didn't have a day off for two-and-a-half years!

No wonder he enjoys his condo in Vancouver so much, along with the many trips he takes by private jet.

But there's more to it all than money, of course. Brett shares what he told his son. "I really want you to think about success as happiness. And if your needs are many, you may never be happy. But if your needs are few you might always be happy."

Dianne Buckner is the weekend anchor on CBC News Network and host of Dragons' Den. The season finale airs tonight at 8 p.m. on CBC Television. Auditions for next season are underway. Check cbc.ca/dragonsden for details.

Ford building new cop car
Ford has revealed its all-new, purpose-built Police Interceptor sedan, showcasing a car for law enforcement that will exceed the durability, safety, performance and fuel economy of the Ford Crown Victoria. The Ontario-built Crown Victoria Police Interceptor will finish production in 2011. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Cool Carbon

General Motors has announced the 2011 Corvette Z06 Carbon Limited Edition, which will go on sale this summer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Volt charges ahead

GM delivers on electric car promise

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

While there's still more than a year to go before its scheduled launch, Chevrolet's Volt is getting closer. From a concept unveiled in early 2007, it's now a model that starts, stops and drives – and I got the chance to do that in Vancouver.

I went less than 20 kilometres at low speeds, but notably, it was what automakers call an "integration vehicle," the first time the technology and design have come together. This isn't exactly what will go on sale, but final changes will probably be minor.

While it has a gasoline engine, electric motor and lithium-ion battery, Volt isn't a hybrid.

Rather, it's an extended-range vehicle that always uses electricity to power the wheels. After it's recharged by plugging into a wall outlet, it travels about 64 km.

Once the battery runs down, a 1.4-litre gasoline engine starts up and acts like a generator to supply more electricity.

That's a major difference from an all-electric car, which won't travel any further once its battery is depleted.

Volt was designed to the 64-km threshold because, as GM says, 75 per cent of Canadians drive less than that each day. In theory, many Volt owners will never burn any gasoline, other than the occasional start-up programmed into the engine to keep its fluids flowing.

Driving it is unremarkable, and I mean that as a compliment.

It doesn't feel much different than a conventional car, which should appeal to many buyers: No learning curve, no unusual requirements, and nothing unfamiliar. Press a button, put the shifter into drive, and put your foot on the accelerator pedal.

It feels peppy, and has a "Sport" button that adds a turbo-like power boost for hills and highway passing. Regenerative braking and deceleration put some charge back into the battery.

2011 Chevrolet Volt

Type: Extended-range electric sedan
Price: NA
Engine: Battery/1.4L gasoline

Highlights

- Drives like a normal sedan; no learning curve
- Sport button adds turbo-like boost

While the Chevy Volt has a gasoline engine, electric motor and lithium-ion battery, Volt isn't a hybrid. Rather, it's an extended-range vehicle that always uses electricity to power the wheels.

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Das Auto.

Model shown with optional features. *Limited time financing offer available on approved credit through Volkswagen Finance. 0% APR financing pertains to finance terms up to 24 months only on 2005 to 2008 M.Y. Certified Pre-owned Jettas. Rates start at 2.9% for up to 60 months for other models. Financing example: $15,000 financed at 0% for 24 months, monthly payment is $625, cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $15,000.00. $15,000 financed at 2.9% for 60 months, monthly payment is $268.86, cost of borrowing is $1,131.86 for a total obligation of $16,131.86. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment may be required. PPSA, license, insurance, registration and applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends March 31, 2010. **$500 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. †2-year/40,000 km (whichever comes first) limited warranty. See dealers for additional details about this warranty. ††2-year, 24-hour roadside assistance provided by Sykes Assistance Services Corporation. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" is a trademark of Volkswagen AG. "CarProof" is a registered trademark of 3823202 Canada Inc. o/a LienQuest.com. © 2010 Volkswagen Canada.

Hyundai leads in brand loyalty: Kelley Blue Book
Brand loyalty for Hyundai has surpassed that of Honda and Toyota, taking the number one spot among car shoppers, according to Kelley Blue Book. In addition, Hyundai values have been outperforming the car segment average. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Smartphone way to buy used

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz
metronews.ca/autopilot

A wise sage once opined that, "Knowledge is Power." This prompted another sage to suggest that such power is best used to make other people feel stupid.

True enough.

But perhaps you're in the market for a used car. In that case, you're probably more interested in obtaining knowledge, to transform yourself into a powerful super hero, one able to leap into a great used vehicle, at a really great price, all in a single bound.

We now have a new Canadian company, vehiclegateway.com, to help us bulk up on used-vehicle expertise and muscle — and through our cellphones no less.

But company spokesperson, Peter Davies, told me not to think of it as an app.

"In my opinion it's superior to an app," said Davies. "It requires no downloading. All you have to do is go to vehiclegateway.com on your Blackberry, iPhone, or any phone with browser capability, and you are presented with a 'mobile' version of the site."

Vehiclegateway.com is similar to sites like AutoTrader and Autonet, which offer lots of vehicles for sale, from both dealers and private sellers.

But vehiclegateway.com will differentiate itself from the pack, says Davies, by being the first to combine several crucial elements, such as: cellphone accessibility; free listings for private sellers; an increased level of information on each specific vehicle; a special section devoted to vehicles that fall under the automakers' certified programs; and the first used Canadian used-vehicle site to offer a link to obtain vehicle history reports from CARFAX.

The cellphone access will purportedly help your negotiating position. Davies tells me to picture myself on a used car lot, contemplating a nice shiny ride. How do I know if the price is fair? By punching the year and model of the vehicle into vehiclegateway.com, and asking it to generate an "average price" for all such vehicles currently listed there.

It's up to you then, whether you shove the cellphone screen into the seller's face, or sign the papers.

While sites like Kijiji and Craigslist also offer free listings for private sellers, Davies notes they are not geared specifically for automotive buyers, and both have their share of unscrupulous sellers.

"People are scared of buying a lemon," adds Davies. He hopes his site "will help remove some of the apprehension associated with buying used."

It will do that, according to Davies, by asking sellers to fill out a detailed vehicle questionnaire on each vehicle listed.

While sellers are still on the honour system, Davies believes it should weed out sellers who are prone to hyperbole, and allow buyers to narrow their search.

Another apprehension squasher will be the CARFAX vehicle history reports (available for an extra fee).

Like CarProof.com, it can reveal how many times the vehicle has changed hands and when, where it's been licensed, and if it has incurred any insurance claims for accident damage.

Vehiclegateway.com offers a mobile website that allows users to browse through pre-owned cars on the go.

"How do I know if the price is fair? By punching the year and model of the vehicle into vehiclegateway.com, and asking it to generate an "average price" for all such vehicles currently listed there. "

All this information technology is wonderful, but I would still caution that buyers get a trustworthy mechanic to get all touchy-feely with any used vehicle they're ready to pounce on.

Any used vehicle will need work. The extent of work needed is what you want to establish — it's your super-human right to know.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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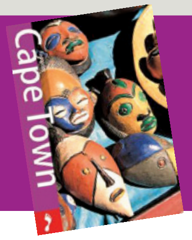
Hemingway home designated landmark
Ernest Hemingway's Key West home, where the American author lived in the 1930s, has been designated a literary landmark. It has become a museum honouring the Pulitzer and Nobel prize-winning author in 1964. hemingwayhome.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel



Heading to the World Cup?

Thinking about heading to this year's World Cup in South Africa? Consider picking up a Footprint travel guide for any of the major cities. The pocket sized package has the most up-to-date information about the city, its surroundings and is packed with ideas for making the most of the time available. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Hotel Oxo's central location puts you close to everything.

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Biarritz offers the best of France

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

The spirit of La Belle Epoque is still alive and well in Biarritz.

Metro found places to eat, stay and play for any budget.

DAILY BUDGET $50

EAT

Bar du Jardin

Simple but cool little terrace restaurant packed with locals. Seasonal gems include great squid dishes in summer and roasts in winter. Try the Omelette aux cèpes.

(bar-dujardin.com)

STAY

La Ferme de Biarritz

Okay it's actually $5 more than the limit for a double room but this 17th century Basque farm is so exquisite that it feels a lot more expensive. Fabulous interior decorating.

(fermedebiarritz.com)

PLAY

Surf

The beach is a key draw here (and can get a bit crowded in summer).

The surfing is some of the best in Europe and beyond the main beach there are loads of little coves just a few minutes walk away.

METRO WORLD NEWS
The Hotel du Palais didn't make our budget list but if you have the dollars the luxury can't be beat.

DAILY BUDGET $100

EAT

Baleak

Set in the food quarter of Biarritz Baleak is one of those places where quality is all.

The toasted garlic bread with red mullet is just sublime and the wine list is clever too. Excellent value. (baleak.fr)

STAY

Hotel Oxo

Doesn't look much from the outside but the interior is surprisingly modern and stylish. Its very central location allows easy access to the beach, casino, and shops and restaurants in town.

(hotel-oxo.com)

Play

Le Musee de la Mer Aquarium

There's something about the art deco grandeur of this aquarium that makes it more than the sum of its parts. And the ocean backdrop clinches it.

(museedelamer.com)

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New York	from $289	+ taxes & fees $112
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Chicago	from $369	+ taxes & fees $116
Los Angeles	from $459	+ taxes & fees $119
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Honolulu	from $689	+ taxes & fees $109

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Southern California Air + Car from $519 + taxes & fees $127
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Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights 5-Star from $649 + taxes & fees $117
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New York Air + 3 Nights 3.5-Star from $679 + taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. ADD show tickets to Broadway show from $116.

Hawai'i Air + 7 Nights from $1039 + taxes & fees $131
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Spain Running of the Bulls 8-Day Tour from $1619 taxes & fees included
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Mexican Riviera 7-Night Cruise from $479^ + taxes & fees $53^
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Real American hero
Ryan Phillippe is in talks to play Captain America. The star confirmed he is to audition for the role in superhero movie The First Avenger: Captain America and is hoping to land the role of the crime fighter and his alter ego Steve Rogers. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Run for the money

Aniston and Butler hook up in The Bounty Hunter

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

In The Bounty Hunter, Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler work on the borders of their comfort zones. Butler is the titular character, a former cop so down on his luck he takes a gig tracking down his ex-wife (and alleged real-life girlfriend) Aniston, for a payday of $5,000.

"I felt this was a different role for her," says Butler of his co-star. "She is the Queen of Comedy and done a lot of romantic comedies, but this doesn't feel like a romantic comedy. It feels like an action driven comedy. She was playing a much bitchier, hard edged character than I think anyone has ever seen her do before and for me that is exciting."

Aniston, best known as Rachel from Friends, or Brad Pitt's ex wife, depending on your appetite for the tabloids, says she was attracted to the role because "it wasn't your traditional run of the mill girl meets guy, guy meets girl."

Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston star in The Bounty Hunter.

"It is an action comedy and a road movie with a little romance in there and a little suspense," she said recently in a sitdown with Metro in New York City.

The Bounty Hunter opens this Friday

She was, however, taken by surprise by the physical demands of the production. Doing stunts in four inch heels isn't as easy as it looks.

"Your adrenaline is going and you're not really feeling it at the moment and then I'd get home and notice a bruise here and a callous here," said Aniston, who adds she would consider other action roles in future. "Then there were the handcuffs. Try wearing those, attached to a car door for three days. Not fun."

For Butler, a Scottish heartthrob best known for his sculpted abs and roles in violent films like 300, the challenge wasn't the physical side, but breaking the action star stereotype.

"My break in America was Attila the Hun, which went into Time Line, Tomb Raider, Reign of Fire and at that point I loved doing that, but it's not like when you are still making your way in the business that people go, 'Tomb Raider, Oh my God, the guy should be in a comedy.' I was waiting for the right opportunity. I thought I don't want to dive in with something crappy. I wanted to wait until I'm lucky enough to get the right script that felt right."

Mourners arrive in Toronto for the funeral of Corey Haim.

Teen star Corey Haim remembered

PEOPLE Grim-faced relatives, friends and fans of Corey Haim gathered at a north Toronto funeral home yesterday to remember the fallen teen icon.

The former heartthrob, best known for starring in a string of '80s films including The Lost Boys and License to Drive, was honoured in a private ceremony. Haim's family asked for privacy while they gathered in the wake of his sudden death last week in Burbank, Calif., but that didn't stop more than a dozen reporters and fans from gathering in front of the chapel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More goodwill from Jolie

Thanks to UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie, a new primary school for girls in Tangi, Afghanistan is ready to welcome 800 students, according to a UNHCR statement. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment in brief

LEGAL An executive producer for the 1980s sit-com Growing Pains has been sentenced in Arkansas to 7 1/2 years in prison for distribution of child pornography. Steven Marshall was arrested last April 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Record-breaking deal

Jackson's $200 million recording contract

The estate of Michael Jackson has landed the late King of Pop the biggest recording deal in history: a $200 million guaranteed contract with Sony Music Entertainment for 10 projects over seven years, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The record-breaking contract through 2017 could be worth up to $250 million if certain conditions are met. One of the albums will be of never-before-released Jackson recordings that will come out in November, the person said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the official announcement is expected Tuesday.

Future projects may also include a DVD compilation of videos and a re-release of Off the Wall, Jackson's fifth studio album, which first came out in 1979, accompanied by some unreleased material. Before his sudden death in June at age 50, the pop star had wanted to re-issue the album, people familiar with the deal said.

One of the projects already counted in the contract was the two-disc album that accompanied This Is It, the film based on footage of concert rehearsals for what was to have been Jackson's comeback at London's O2 arena.

Including the more than five million copies of that special release, Jackson has sold some 31 million albums since his death in June, about two-thirds of them outside the United States.

"During his life, Michael's contracts set the standard for the industry," said John Branca, the co-administrator of the Jackson estate, in a statement prepared for release Tuesday. "By all objective criteria, this agreement with Sony Music demonstrates the lasting power of Michael's music by exceeding all previous industry benchmarks."

Rob Stringer, chairman of Sony Music's Columbia Epic Label Group, said in prepared remarks, "We're dedicated to protecting this icon's legacy and we're thrilled that we can continue to bring his music to the world for the foreseeable future."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"This agreement with Sony Music demonstrates the lasting power of Michael's music by exceeding all previous industry benchmarks."

John Branca, co-administrator of Jackson estate

Michael Jackson, right.

Winfrey to defend defamation

Oprah Winfrey

LEGAL A federal judge says Oprah Winfrey must defend a defamation suit filed by the former headmistress of her girls' school in South Africa.

The case is now set for trial March 29 in Philadelphia.

Judge Eduardo Robreno refused to dismiss the suit in a decision Monday.

He says former headmistress Nomvuyo Mzamane has enough evidence to pursue claims Winfrey defamed her. Winfrey made the remarks in 2007 after sex-abuse complaints surfaced at her school for poor girls near Johannesburg.

A dorm matron who worked under Mzamane was charged with abusing students.

Winfrey's lawyer, William Hangley, declined comment Tuesday on the decision.

Mzamane's lawyer did not immediately return a call for comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HA	H	D	B		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
3/17/10 primetime	31	31	31	ABC	News Center 5	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Scrubs	The Middle	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Ugly Betty (N)
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model "Dreckitude!"			Look-A-Like	The Listener
	11	11	11	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (N)		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Union-force	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Moment de vérité (N) (SC)		Tous pour un (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Les Gags (SC)	Destinées "Lâcher prise" (SC)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA nouvelles
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Melrose Place (N)		Bones		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News Final (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Access H.	CSI: NY (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol		CTV News
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk (N)	Fuelin' Around	Community Matters		
	36	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Human Target "Baptiste"		American Idol		Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims		Law & Order
	29	29	29	NW	(6) Power & Politics		The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		Geo. Journey
	4	4	4	PBS-B	PBS NewsHour (N)		Greater Boston	Viewers' Favorites			Viewers' Favorites		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	PBS NewsHour (N)		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: Irish			It's Entertainment	
	68	68	68	TQS	Guerre clans	Atomes croch	Big Brother QC	Rire et délire	Wipeout (N) (SC)		True Blood (SC)		L'Attaque à 5
news	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight		The Close	Market Call	Squeeze Play		Business News
	18	18	18	CNN	(6) The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer (N)				Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Quest-Card	19th Hole (HDTV) (Live)		Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (N)	Haney Project	John Daly
	52	52	52	RSE	Connected W-Prime Time		MMA Conn	UEFA Champions League Soccer Bordeaux vs. Olympiacos. (HDTV)					Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Mar. Madness	Covers Experts	Score Today	Poker Million Pound Challenge.		World Poker Tour		WWE Vintage Collection	
	45	45	45	SPD	Barrett-Jackson 2006		NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Dangerous Drives (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time (N)
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	World Series/Poker - Europe		NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey: Flames at Avalanche		
family	43	43	43	FAM	Sonny Chance	The Suite Life on Deck		Suite Life	Sonny Chance	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	*Arthur and the Invisibles* ★★ (2006, Fantasy)				Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
	26	26	26	TREE	Guess-Jess	3rd and Bird	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear
	27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Criminal Minds "P911"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	70	70	70	APTN	APTN National News (N)		Investigates	Kitaajiwan: Severn River		Down2Earth	*Black Cloud* ★★ (2005, Drama) Eddie Spears.		
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. (Live)				*Juwanna Mann* ★ (2002, Comedy) Miguel A. Núñez. Jr..				Keyshia Cole
	37	37	37	BRVO	Emily of New Moon		Irish Music	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Celtic Woman: Songs-Heart		White Collar
	25	25	25	CMT	The Show (N)	Totally	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.
	49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie
	153	153	153	COURT	Situation Critical		Killer Next Door		Video Justice	Dumb Criminal	Killer Forensics		Killer, Door
	38	38	38	DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet (N)		The Colony "Exodus" (N)		Howe & Howe Tech (N)		Solv.History
	34	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Real Estate	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters
	46	46	46	HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT
	17	17	17	MM	Buffy the Vampire Slayer		America's Best Dance Crew		disBAND	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	My Date With...
	19	19	19	MMM	mmtop10.ca		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Gene Simmons
	201	201	201	M1	(6:45) *The Promotion*		(8:15) *Nurse.Fighter.Boy* (2008, Drama) Clark Johnson.				*Observe and Report* ★★ (2009, Comedy)		
	48	23	23	OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters
	51	51	51	PEACH	Friends	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Law & Order: Special Victims		SEC Postseason Preview		Seinfeld
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) *Caddyshack II*		*Perfectly Normal* ★★ (1991, Comedy) Robbie Coltrane.				*The Blair Witch Project* (1999, Horror)		
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*Maternal Obsession* (2008, Suspense) Nicholle Tom.				HawthoRNe
	40	40	40	SLICE	Whatever	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 "Abyss"		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Unleashed (HDTV)		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed (HDTV)		UFC Primetime
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		Dr. Oz Show
	21	21	21	TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Kate: Her Story (HDTV)		Tiger Woods		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Addicted
	56	34	34	TROP	Project Runway Canada		Dog Whisperer		Hoarders		Hoarders "Tara; Betty"		Parking Wars
	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Verdict		*Les Brigades du tigre* (2006, Drame)				À Table
	28	28	28	V	Emily of New Moon		Murder, She Wrote		No Place Like	Open All Hours	*Doc Martin* (2003, Comedy) Martin Clunes.		
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mediums	Ghostly Enc.	Cold Case "Devil Music"		Missing (Part 1 of 2)		The Closer		Cold Case
	22	22	22	W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	*Plain Truth*
	251	251	251	WGN	WGN Evening News		Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model "Dreckitude!"			High Society	NHL Hockey

critics' corner

Gary Unmarried

After Gary (Jay Mohr) discovers that his and Allison's (Paula Marshall) divorce papers were never filed, he tries to use the information as leverage to get his beloved "stuff" back. Allison's sister (guest star Rachael Harris) comes to town and gives Mitch (Rob Riggle) a makeover in the new episode "Gary Unmarried?" — which is also the season finale. Niecy Nash and Garret Dillahunt guest star. 9:30 PM on CBS

Mercy

After a St. Patrick's Day binge, Veronica (Taylor Schilling) considers seeing a therapist. Chloe (Michelle Trachtenberg) starts to warm up to Dr. Briggs (James Van Der Beek) when she learns why he became a doctor. Still privately mourning the death of her patient, Sonia (Jaime Lee Kirchner) runs into an ex-boyfriend at a St. Patrick's Day fair. Guillermo Diaz and Margo Martindale also star in this new episode. 9 PM on NBC

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8 Ricky J - Whatta Night
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3 Timbaland Ft Katy Perry - If We Ever Meet Again
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Take Five

Crossword

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

ACROSS

1 Bashful
4 Founder of analytical psychology
8 Possess
12 Verily
13 Somewhere out there
14 Culture medium
15 Zero
16 "Join us"
18 River tributary, often
20 Humor
21 Cronies
24 Starbucks option
28 William Boyd's nom de Westerns
32 Sitarist's rendition
33 Work with
34 Place
36 Brooch
37 Passel
39 Annoying follower
41 "M*A*S*H" setting
43 Knighted woman
44 "CSI" evidence
46 Take as one's own
50 Musicfest
55 Neither mate
56 Genealogy chart
57 — gin fizz
58 Bill's partner
59 Goes off course
60 Probability
61 Actor Ron

DOWN

1 Harmonization
2 Inheritor
3 Ivy League school
4 Dogs' wild kin
5 Venusian vessel?
6 "Platoon" setting, for short
7 Got bigger
8 Summertime garment
9 Past
10 Moving truck
11 Work unit
17 Help
19 Fuel economy org.
22 Mississippi politico Trent
23 "Slammin' Sammy" of golf
25 Mafia boss
26 Not "fer"
27 Phyllis Diller's "husband"
28 Corn coating
29 Norway's capital
30 Juror, in theory
31 Pop singer Lady —
35 Court-case compensation
38 Shims
40 Started
42 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
45 Moreover
47 Erstwhile
48 Swimmers' place
49 Helen of —
50 Pigpen
51 401(k) alternative
52 Opposite of 53-Down
53 Opposite of 52-Down
54 Affirmative action?

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8								9
	1		3	8	4		2	
	6						7	
		4	9		3	7		
	2						6	
		6	1		5	3		
	9						4	
	4		2	7	9		5	
1								8

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	P	A	L	■	U	N	D	O	■	T	N	T
F	I	N	E	■	S	E	E	M	■	E	A	U
T	E	N	N	E	S	S	E	E	■	N	I	B
■	■	■	D	A	R	T	■	L	A	D	L	E
P	E	T	E	R	■	■	M	E	R	E	■	■
O	V	E	R	■	F	L	A	T	I	R	O	N
K	I	N	■	V	I	A	L	S	■	I	V	E
E	L	E	G	A	N	C	E	■	C	Z	A	R
■	■	M	A	C	K	■	■	F	I	E	L	D
O	M	E	G	A	■	S	E	A	R	■	■	■
B	U	N	■	T	E	N	T	A	C	L	E	S
E	S	T	■	E	R	I	N	■	L	A	N	K
Y	E	S	■	D	A	T	A	■	E	D	D	Y

3	5	2	1	4	8	6	7	9
1	9	4	6	5	7	8	3	2
8	7	6	9	3	2	4	5	1
2	1	9	7	8	4	5	6	3
5	8	7	3	6	9	2	1	4
4	6	3	2	1	5	9	8	7
6	3	5	4	9	1	7	2	8
7	4	8	5	2	3	1	9	6
9	2	1	8	7	6	3	4	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

I LIKE THE WAY YOU'VE ANSWERED MY QUESTIONS — HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT THE POSITION OF YES MAN?
3-17
Piccolo
THESIXCHIX.COM

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken with 40 Cloves of Garlic

INGREDIENTS:

2 tsp olive oil
1 lb small white boiling potatoes
3 celery stalks, thickly sliced
2 carrots, halved lengthwise and cut into 1 1/2-in. pieces
40 garlic cloves, unpeeled
3/4 tsp tarragon
1/2 tsp rosemary, minced
3/4 tsp salt
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup dry vermouth
4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
1/4 cup chopped parsley

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Combine oil, potatoes, celery, carrots, garlic, tarragon, rosemary and salt in Dutch oven or flameproof casserole. Toss to combine.

2. Add broth and vermouth to pan and bring to boil over medium heat. Reduce to simmer, cover and cook 10 minutes.

3. Add chicken, cover and place in oven. Bake until chicken is cooked through and potatoes and garlic are tender, 30 minutes. Stir in parsley just before serving

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Reader's Digest
We Can All Be Rich

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Stick to what you know and trust. Changing fashions can be seductive but just because there is a new way of doing things does not mean it will be better.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
There are some things you must never reveal about yourself, no matter how tempted you may be to come clean and hope that others understand.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
There is a magnetic quality to your personality that will attract good things to you today — along with one or two bad things as well.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
As a cardinal sign you are rarely happy with a mid-level position. You were born for life at the top and you won't rest until you are Number One.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You may have tried something and failed a dozen times before but this time you are going to get it right. This time you can't lose.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The best way to deal with a difficult situation is to pretend it does not exist. This is one of those times when, by focusing on something, you give it power.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If you feel trapped by a relationship, try mentioning that you need more time to yourself. If you say it the right way chances are they will understand.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Let others lead the way and make suggestions, but don't let them use you as a guinea pig. If there is something risky they want to try let them go first.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You should be feeling both more relaxed and more affectionate now. If not, don't worry, because the good times will begin soon.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Sometimes you can be too suspicious, so give friends and relatives the benefit of the doubt today. It's nicer for them and nicer for you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
The more friends and work colleagues try to press you to follow a certain path the more you will enjoy following a different path entirely.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There is no point being too serious today. With the Sun in your sign forming a major union with Uranus, you really have nothing to worry about.

This day in history

1756: Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in New York City for the first time (at the Crown and Thistle Tavern).
1845: The rubber band is patented.
1942: Holocaust: The first Jews from the Lviv Ghetto are gassed at the Belzec death camp (eastern Poland).
1948: Benelux, France, and the United Kingdom sign the Treaty of Brussels, a precursor to the North Atlantic Treaty establishing NATO.
1969 : Golda Meir becomes the first female Prime Minister of Israel.
2008 : New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigns after a scandal involving a high-end prostitute.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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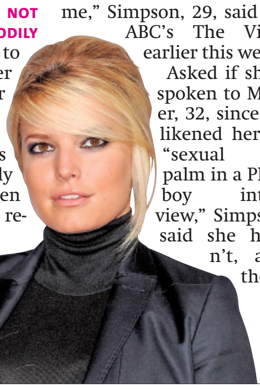
Creating her own pack of pooches

Anne Hathaway — who already has a much-loved chocolate Labrador called Esmeralda — went to an animal rescue centre in West Hollywood on the weekend with her partner Adam Schulman to adopt a new dog. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

The bomb has been diffused



AND FOR ONCE SHE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT HER BODILY FUNCTIONS Continuing to hit back at former boyfriend John Mayer for revealing details about their sex life, Jessica Simpson says gossiping isn't the only dumb thing she's seen Mayer do, people.com reports.

"I thought he was stupid for breaking up with me," Simpson, 29, said on ABC's The View earlier this week.

Asked if she's spoken to Mayer, 32, since he likened her to "sexual napalm in a Playboy interview," Simpson said she hadn't, and then added with a laugh: "And he'll never have this napalm again."

The singer and actress, whose new show The Price of Beauty premiered Monday night on VH1, says she's still feeling the effects of Mayer's comments.

"I'll walk into a restaurant or something, and I notice that more men are looking at me, but I feel like they're undressing me," she says.

"So, it's a little bit embarrassing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bret is a big fan of Miley

LET'S JUST HOPE NOT TOO BIG A FAN Poison singer Bret Michaels — who has collaborated with the Miley Cyrus on their new single Nothing to Lose — is in awe of the 17-year-old singer-and-actress because she stands up for what she believes in.

He said: "Does she stir s— up? No. What I think that she does is she doesn't take any s—. I love that about her. I've seen it.

"I've seen people come at her, come at me, and we're both the same. I set them straight," he said.

"A lot of times when you live in that Hollywood limelight, speaking your piece or doing your thing is organic and more controversial than people trying to be controversial."

Discussing whether or not Cyrus likes to create scandals, he added to America's OK! magazine: "I think the exact opposite … I think she's got a strong backbone."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's coming.

The future looks bright

ARE THEY OUT OF THE WOODS? Tiger Woods was spotted with his wife Elin for the first time since his sex scandal broke last November, usmagazine.com reports.

The two were spotted taking a stroll around their Isleworth gated community in Windermere, Fla., Saturday morning.

Walking several feet behind her husband, Elin, 30, wore a Nike bandana. (Interestingly, Nike is the one major sponsor that hasn't dropped Woods.)

In his hyped-up public apology on Feb. 19, Woods refused to reveal whether he and his wife were splitting.

He also denied rumours that she assaulted him when she learned of his affair with Rachel Uchitel.

He praised his wife's "enormous grace and poise" and said that he and Elin have "started the process of discussing the damage caused by my behaviour ... My real apology will not come in the form of words, but my behaviour over time.

"We have a lot to discuss. What we say to each other will remain between the two of us."

METRO WORLD NEWS

They just want her healthy

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SALES There has been a big debate about whether Gabourey Sidibe's weight will hamper her future career, despite her recent Oscar nomination, popeater.com reports.

Now, one weight loss company has written a letter to the Precious star, telling her she needs to worry about her health — not her image, TMZ reports.

AssaiSupply.com has offered the actress a one-year's supply of their product to help her lose weight.

AssaiSupply's publicist Kevin Blatt tells PopEater, "We have seen a large increase in sales today, but we have not yet heard from Ms. Sidibie. We are really hoping to. We want to help her maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"She has amazing potential, Oprah believes in her, and she could someday be on that stage accepting an Oscar. We can only put it out there for her, we hope she takes us up on our offer."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A real American hero?

WOULD YOU TRUST THIS MAN WITH KEYS TO AN ARMOURY? Spencer Pratt announced this week he's fleeing The Hills for a job at American Defense Enterprises, a self-defense company that offers "world-class training in the entire spectrum of small arms weaponry."

The reality star told People he discovered a new passion in life, working for the Los Angeles-based company in their cyber security division.

To those thinking this was another one of Pratt's media "gotchas," well, you'd be wrong.

PopEater spoke with Pratt's new boss, A.D.E. head Bill Beasley, who insists the 26-year-old star is sincere and determined to "help do something good for a change."

Contrary to reports, the Hills star is not leaving his hit MTV show, a source tells usmagazine.com.

"All of that stuff about him leaving The Hills to fight cyber crime is not true," the insider insists.

The real story?

"He is leaving The Hills for six weeks because he was asked to."

The source explains that Pratt, 26, recently "flipped out" on the show's set after a female producer made a request to which he objected.

"Very rattled" by Pratt's outburst, the producer filed a complaint with the show's top producers — who then threatened to kick Pratt off the show.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wanted her new baby's name to flow

HOW ABOUT CREEK, OR WATERFALL, OR LAGOON? Giselle Bundchen admits she felt like an alien the first time she went to work after her recent pregnancy.

"I got to the studio and I felt like I was E.T. — whoa, what's going on? Hair and makeup?

"I hadn't looked at myself in a mirror for a month-and-a-half," she tells Vogue.

The supermodel, who says she gave birth to son Benjamin last December in a bathtub in the Boston penthouse she shares with husband Tom Brady, originally wanted to name the baby River.

"I wanted something always flowing, immortal," she says.

"My husband said, 'There's no way we're going to call him River.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Banished to the TV room
Kate Gosselin's big Dancing with the Stars debut is sure to draw a whole lot of eyes, but unfortunately for Jon, he'll have to watch her from home. Kate has essentially banned Jon from attending any tapings, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

He's a kid having a kid

YES, THE TIME TO GROW UP IS UPON YOU Mario Lopez and his actress girlfriend, Courtney Mazza, just announced her pregnancy last week, but the Extra host is already fretting over baby names, people.com reports.

"I don't know what to do about the name thing," Lopez, 36, told Ryan Seacrest on his KIIS-FM radio show this week.

"I like names that mean something. I don't want to get too creative."

Lopez and Mazza, 28, have decided not to find out whether the baby is a boy or girl, though of course that just makes the naming process that much harder.

And their family trees don't offer much help either.

"I always tease her because she's 100 per cent Italian, and I thought she would have some exotic name like Isabella or Francesca. And it's Courtney," jokes Lopez.

"That's what you get when you're born in the '80s."

Despite the challenges of picking a name, the America's Best Dance Crew host is otherwise thrilled at the prospect of fatherhood.

"I am so excited. I'm fired up. I'm like a little kid waiting for Christmas," he says.

"I feel like such a kid myself still. I was like, 'Whoa! Does this mean I have to grow up?'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Everybody loves Betty

BETTY WHITE'S DANCE CARD CONTINUES TO FILL The legendary comedian-actress has approved to co-star in the TV Land sitcom Hot in Cleveland.

White, previously cast only for the pilot, plays the snarky but spry caretaker of the Cleveland home shared by three former L.A. residents played by Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick.

Hot is set to start its 10-episode season in June.

The 88-year-old White last week was named to host NBC's Saturday Night Live on May 8, and she'll guest star on the season finale of the ABC comedy The Middle, also airing in May.

White, an Emmy winner for The Golden Girls, received a lifetime achievement award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards in January.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JORDIN SPARKS doesn't feel very safe, **DANNY DEVITO** is having a rough morning, **JOHN MAYER** is planning for the future, and **NICK CANNON** doesn't appreciate comparisons.

@TheRealJordin This fool driving me to the airport is texting and driving. So NOT okay.

@Danny_DeVito 7:14 stretching. Meditation. Fall off the side of the bed. Crack head on side table. Try to go to the doctor with ice bag disguised as straw hat

@johncmayer If I wanted to make a big impression my first day in prison, I'd walk up and punch the smallest, oldest dude in the face.

@Nick Cannon TMZ put me on Who would you rather with the little dude from Sum41... I don't know how I feel about that LOL

METRO NEWS SERVICES

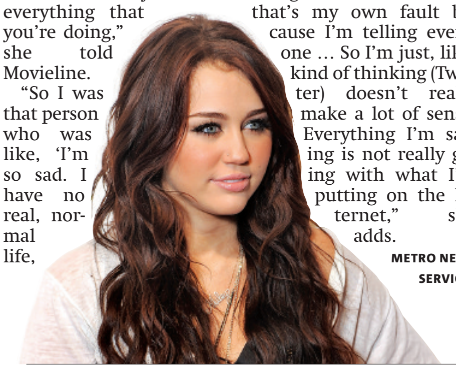
She's all Twittered out

SHE'S FIGURED IT OUT ... IF YOU WANT YOUR PRIVACY, BE PRIVATE Remember when Miley Cyrus caused a big fuss by quitting Twitter? Well, the Disney superstar is explaining her decision, popeater.com reports.

"I was kind of, like, tired of telling everyone what I'm doing. I hate when I read things and celebrities are complaining like, 'I have no personal life.' I'm like, well that's because you write everything that you're doing," she told Movieline.

"So I was that person who was like, 'I'm so sad. I have no real, normal life, everyone knows what I'm doing.' And I'm like, well that's my own fault because I'm telling everyone ... So I'm just, like, kind of thinking (Twitter) doesn't really make a lot of sense. Everything I'm saying is not really going with what I'm putting on the Internet," she adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Blink 182 plane crash settled

COMPANIES PAY UP A judge has approved a legal settlement for the wife and young son of former Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker's bodyguard, who was killed in a plane crash.

The settlement with Learjet Inc., Goodyear Tire&Rubber Co. and other companies involved in the ownership and making of the jet will pay for college for Chris Baker's three-year-old son and give him more than $17 million over his lifetime.

It also will pay Baker's widow more than $7.6 million.

Otilia Baker and her son attended a brief hearing Tuesday before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mary Strobel.

Baker was killed in a plane crash in Columbia, S.C., in Sept. 2008.

The crash killed four people and left Barker and celebrity disc jockey DJ AM seriously injured.

DJ AM later died of a drug overdose.

The cause of the crash has yet to be determined.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

04.03.10

Drew 'basset hound' Barrymore

KINDA HAS A NICE RING TO IT Drew Barrymore insists she has no interest in plastic surgery.

"I'm so curious as to what's going to happen naturally that I can't imagine wanting to alter things just yet," the 35-year-old actress tells the Daily Mail.

"And to all those women putting botulism in their faces — we don't know what the long-term effects are, so stop! I'd rather look like a basset hound than do that to my face."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

All about the birds

A GENTLE SOUL AT HEART? Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson will take flight on Animal Planet with a new sport — pigeon racing.

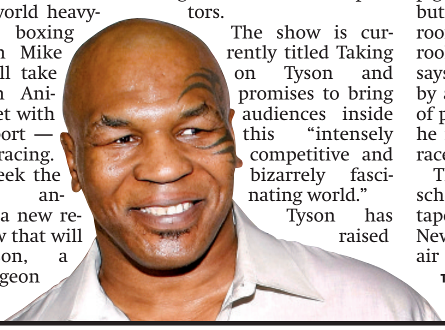
This week the network announced a new reality show that will pit Tyson, a novice pigeon racer, against serious competitors.

The show is currently titled Taking on Tyson and promises to bring audiences inside this "intensely competitive and bizarrely fascinating world."

Tyson has raised pigeons all his life but will take to the rooftops as a racing rookie. The network says he'll be assisted by a colourful team of pigeon experts as he rears, trains and races them.

The show is scheduled to be taped this spring in New York City and air early next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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